

SLBA06

EMPOWERMENT AND ENGAGEMENT OF CANCER PATIENTS: IT'S TIME TO MOVE!

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Background: During last years, there has been an increase of patient's empowerment. It is process of patient's awareness of the possibility to become active in their treatment process. It has been proved that engagement of patients could help to improve sustainability, efficiency and humanization in health systems. As observers of this revolution we have decide to give it a voice and to concretize it in our Oncology Department ASST Rhodense in Rho, Milan. We have activated the pilot project: "Article 17 – Patients have the right to be active". Some selected patients have joined the healthcare staff during the day-hospital activities.

Material (patients) and methods: During last seven months three cancer survivor volunteers of "La Lampada di Aladino Onlus" have observed, listened and supported the patients and the staff, noting their comments. We've defined them SMART patients. They are cancer patients that have already concluded their treatment and are cured and in addition they have acquired specific knowledge and training before start the study.

Results: In this first step of the project, SMART patients have followed day-hospital activities of doctors and nurses. Then they observed patient's experiences at time of the visits, in waiting rooms and during their interaction with all oncological staff. We've collected about 120 reports from which interesting food for thought emerged. Role of caregiver in the different moments of diagnostic process, time dedicated to visits and interaction between doctors and nurses are some of the main observations emphasized by SMART patients. We would subsequently define if their presence could apport an improvement in these steps for patients and all medical staff. At the same time we are outlining some features of the SMART patient.

Conclusions: To increase empowerment and engagement of patients is the future of our health systems. We would like to create a model of concrete actions for prepared patients in cure and treatment process. We are also working to define which characteristics and training the SMART patient should have. In the same time by collaboration with Nurse Culture Centre and Research in ASST Rhodense in collaboration with University of Study of Milan we would fill the gap of literature and evidence about the formed patients, or SMART patients. <https://www.lampada-aladino.it/indagini-gruppi-di-studio/progetto-articolo17>

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